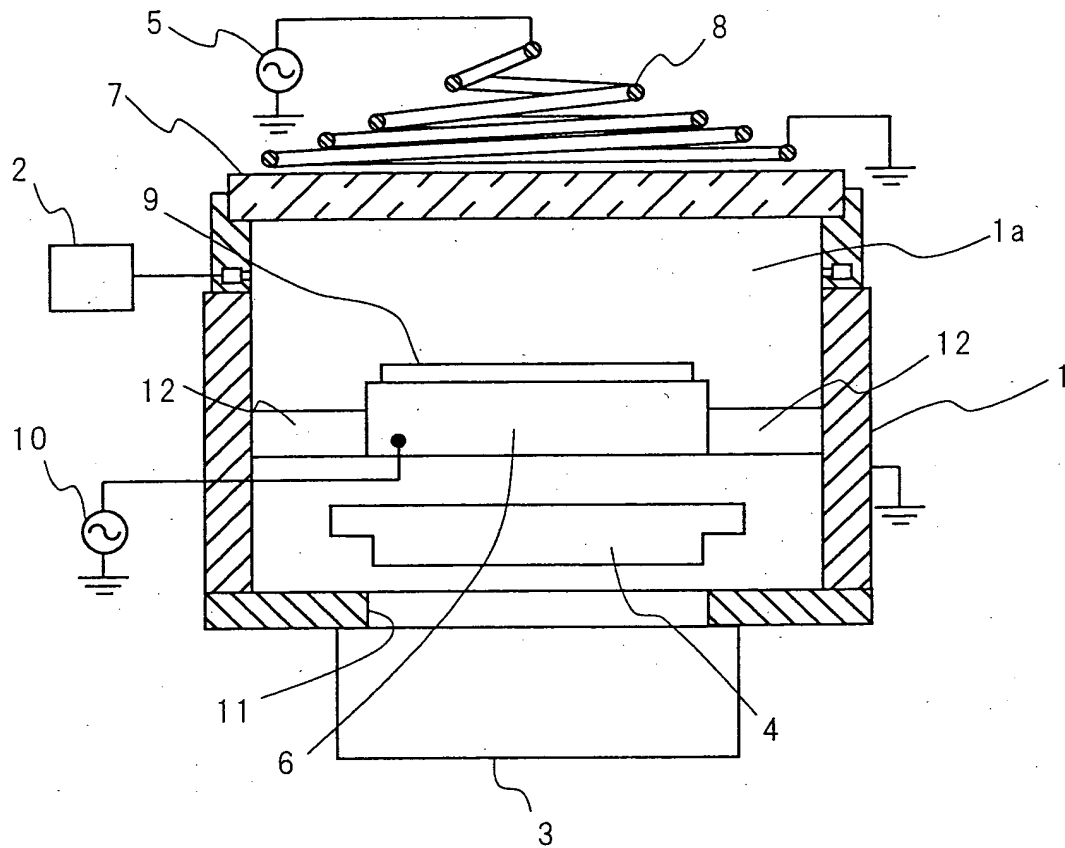


F I G. 1



A cross-sectional schematic diagram of a vacuum furnace. The furnace chamber (1) is shown with a thick, hatched wall. Inside the chamber, a sample (3) is placed on a support (4). A thermocouple (5) is positioned above the sample, with its sensing element (6) in contact with the sample. The thermocouple is connected to a power source (7) and a ground (8). The furnace chamber is also connected to a power source (9) and a ground (10). The diagram includes various labels: 1 (furnace chamber), 1a (inner wall), 2 (outer wall), 3 (sample), 4 (support), 5 (thermocouple), 6 (sensing element), 7 (power source), 8 (ground), 9 (power source), and 10 (ground).

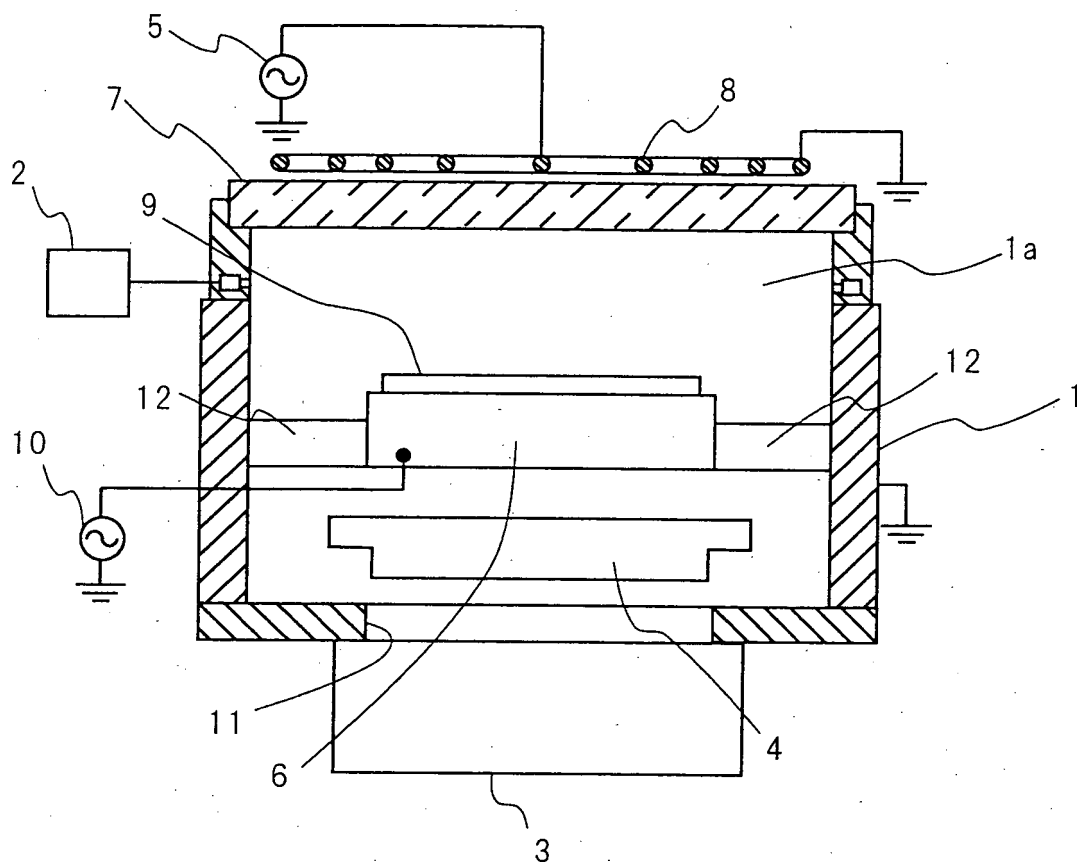


FIG. 3

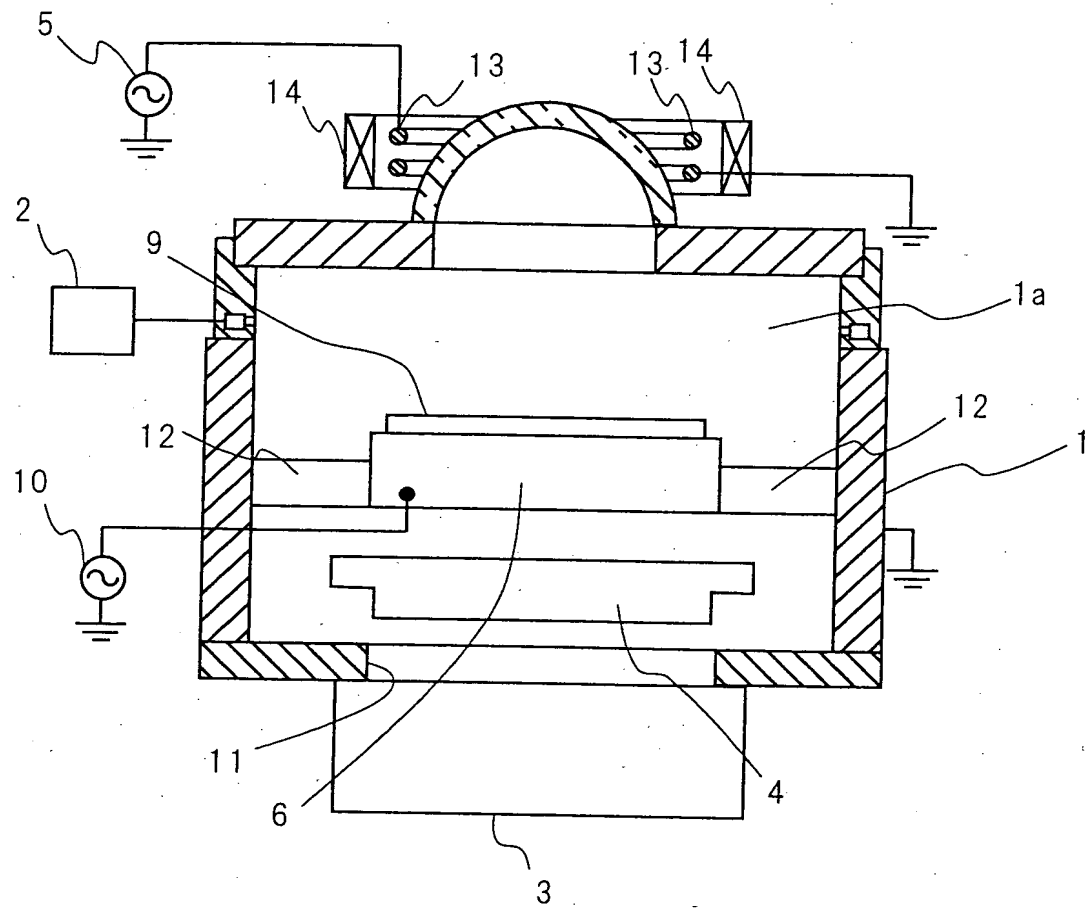


FIG. 4

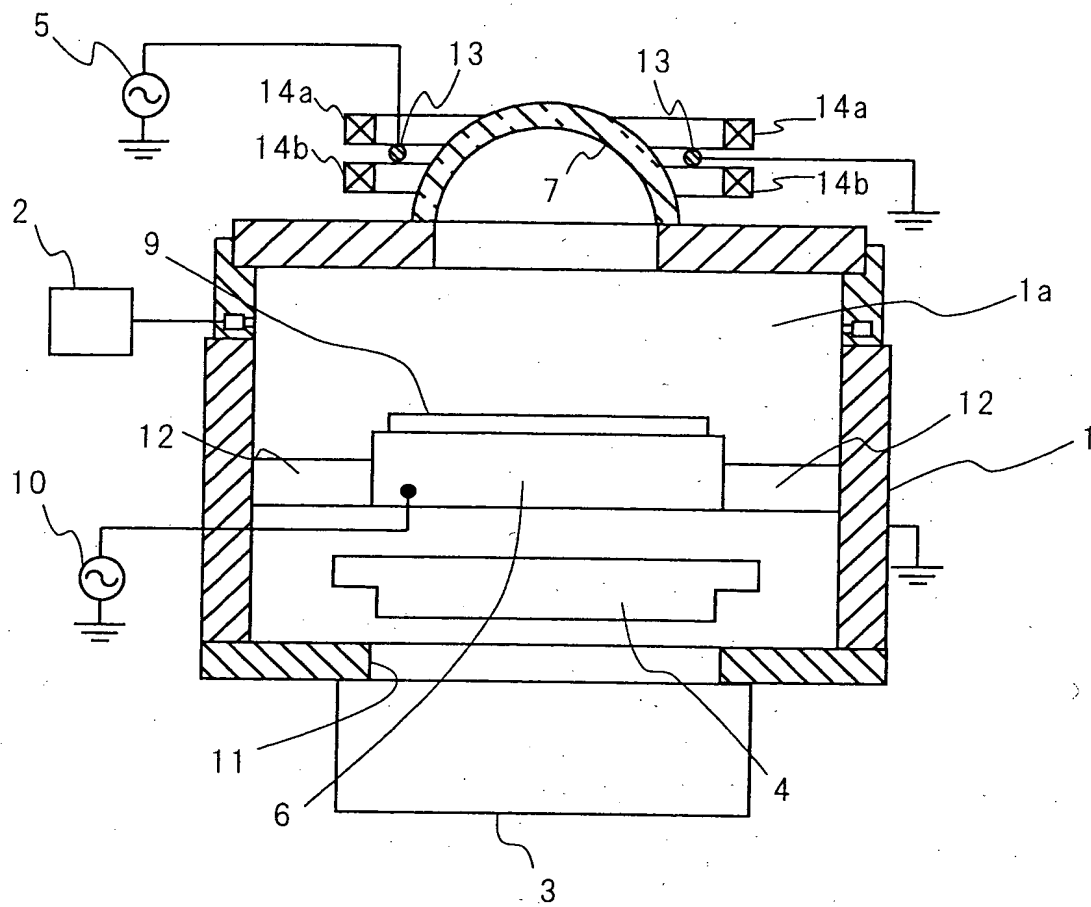


FIG. 5

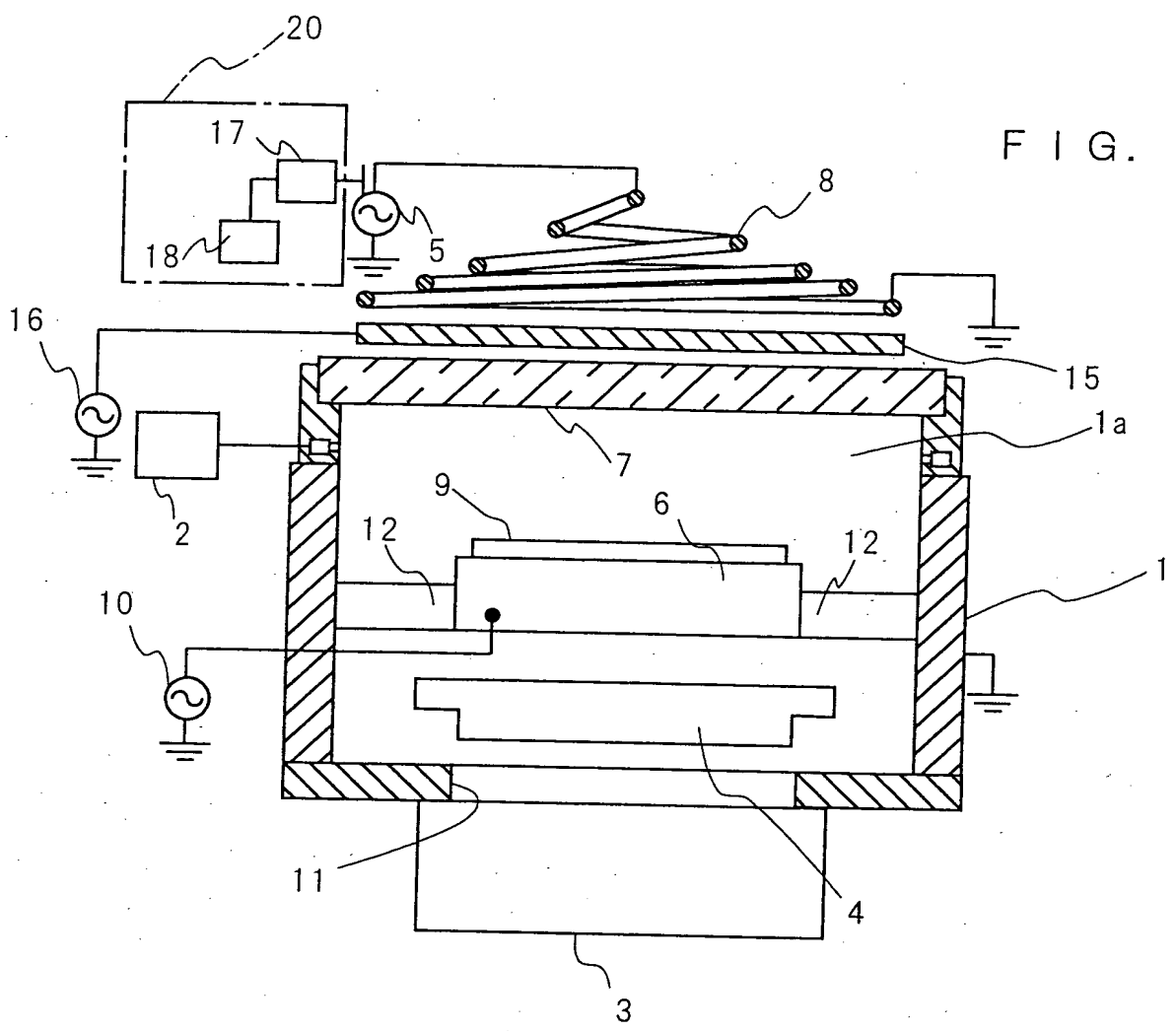


FIG. 6

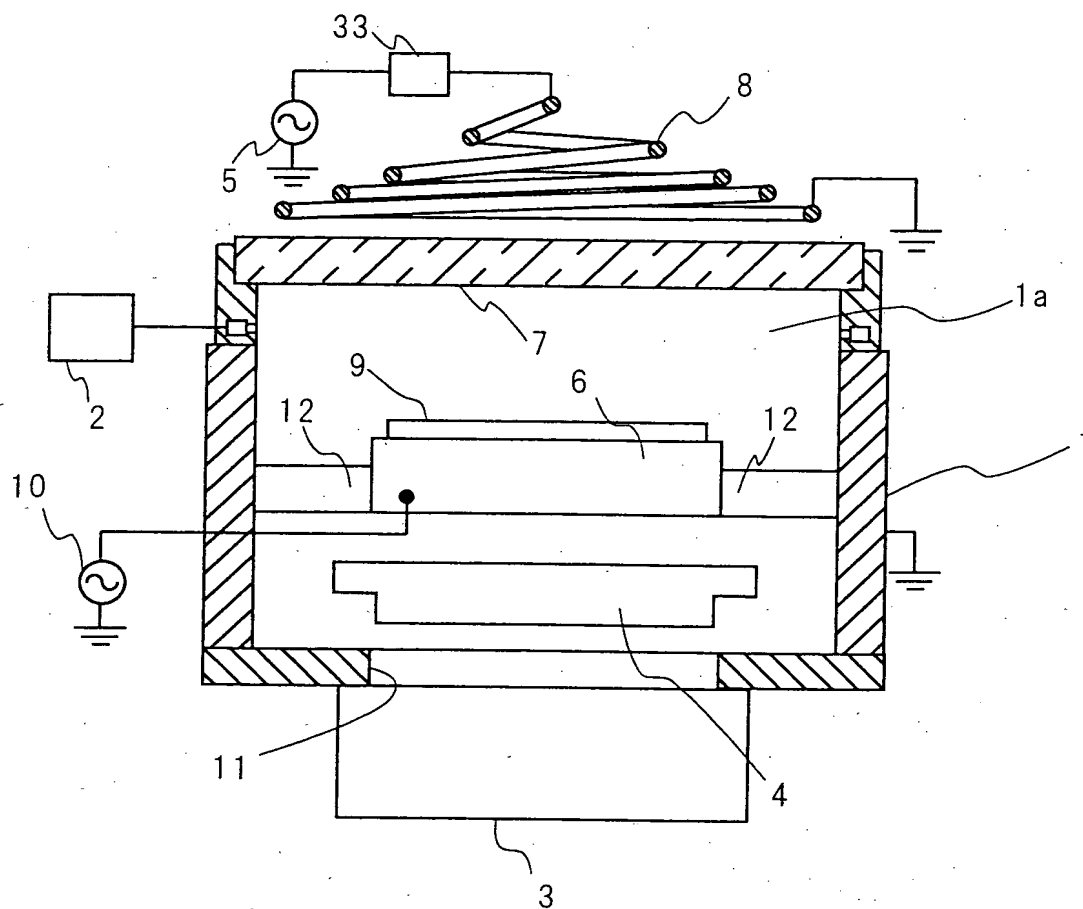


FIG. 8

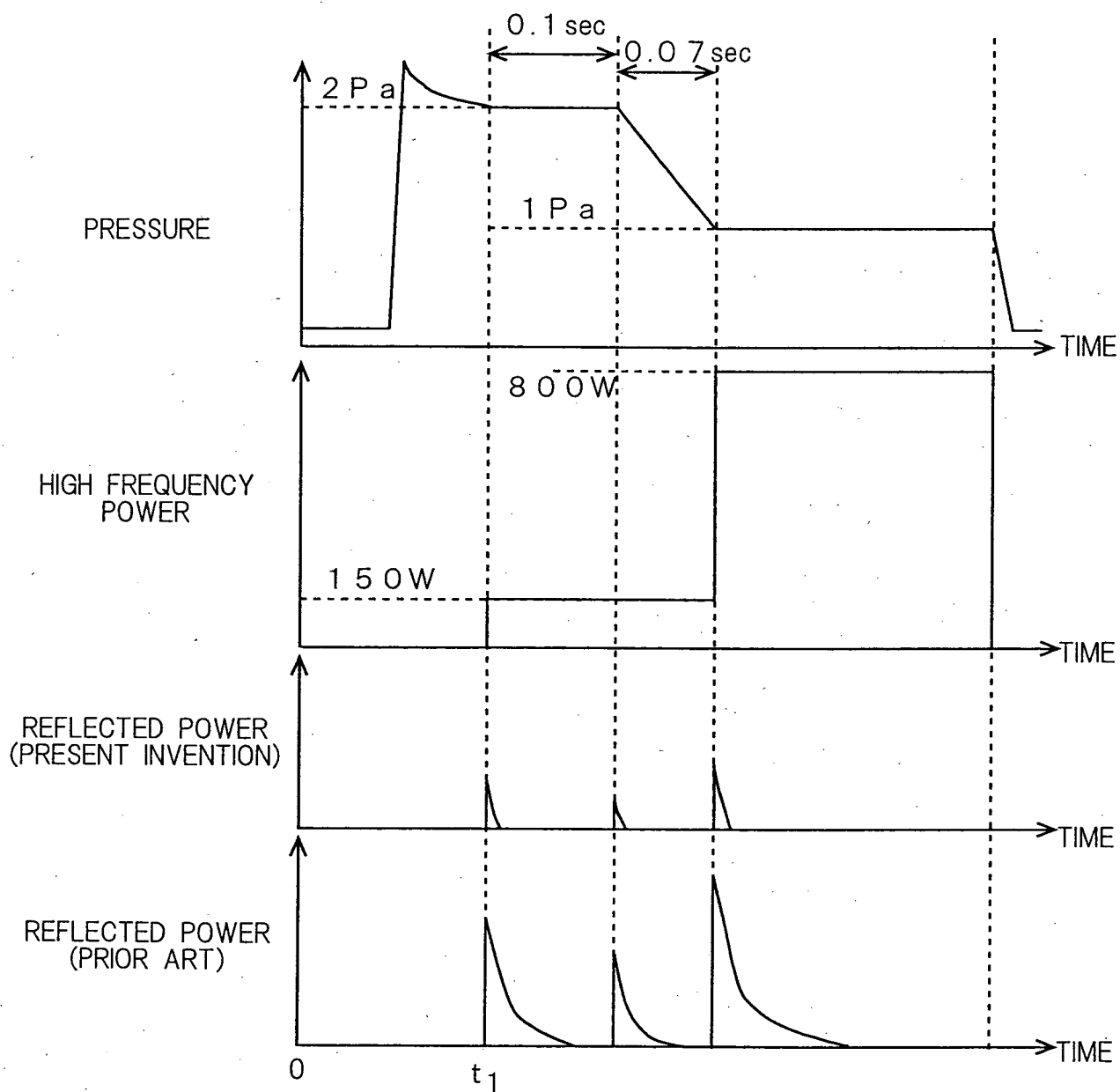


FIG. 9

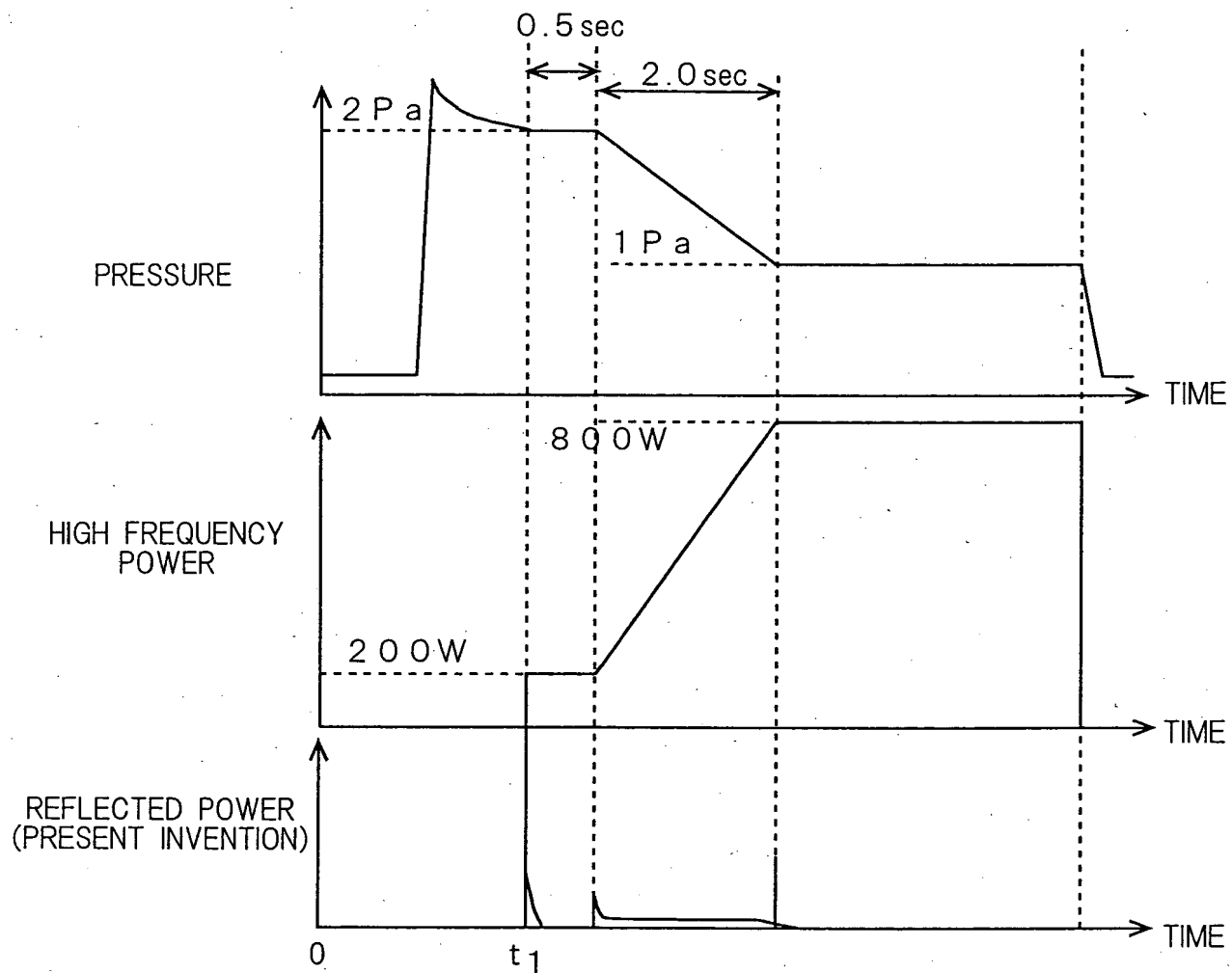


FIG. 10

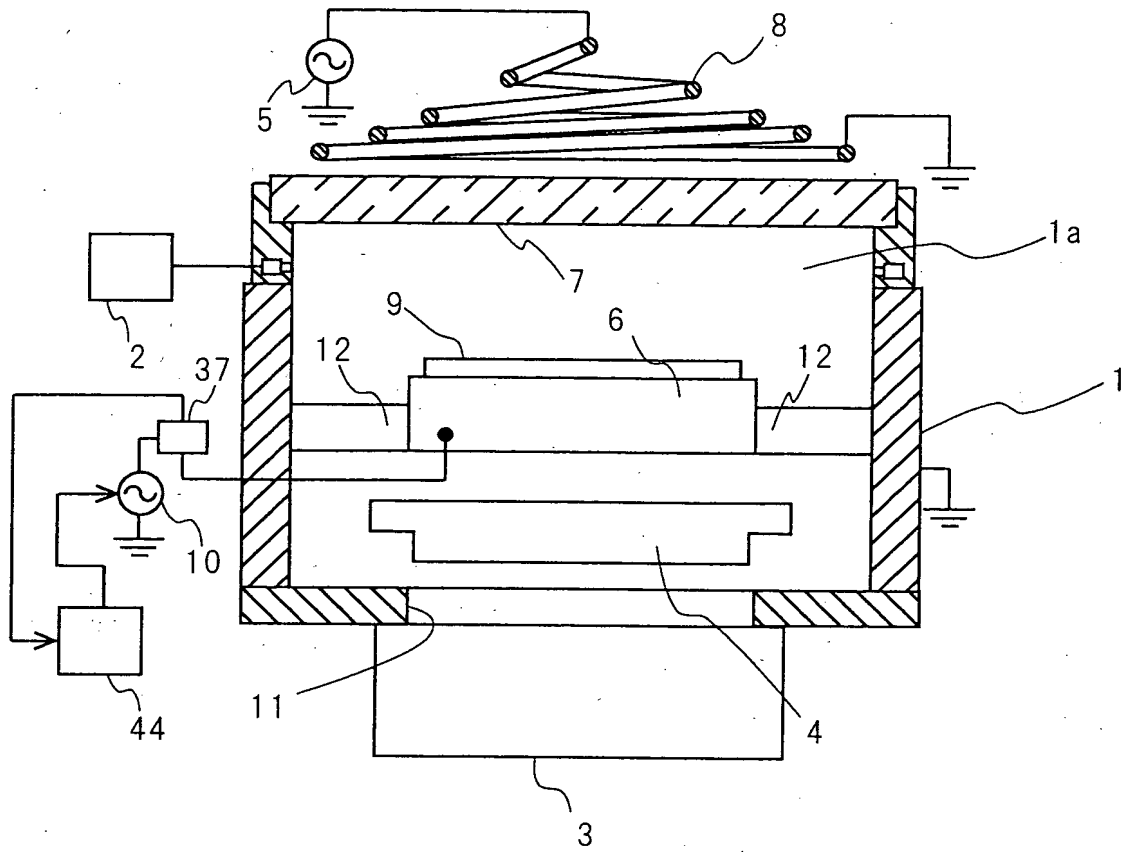


FIG. 11

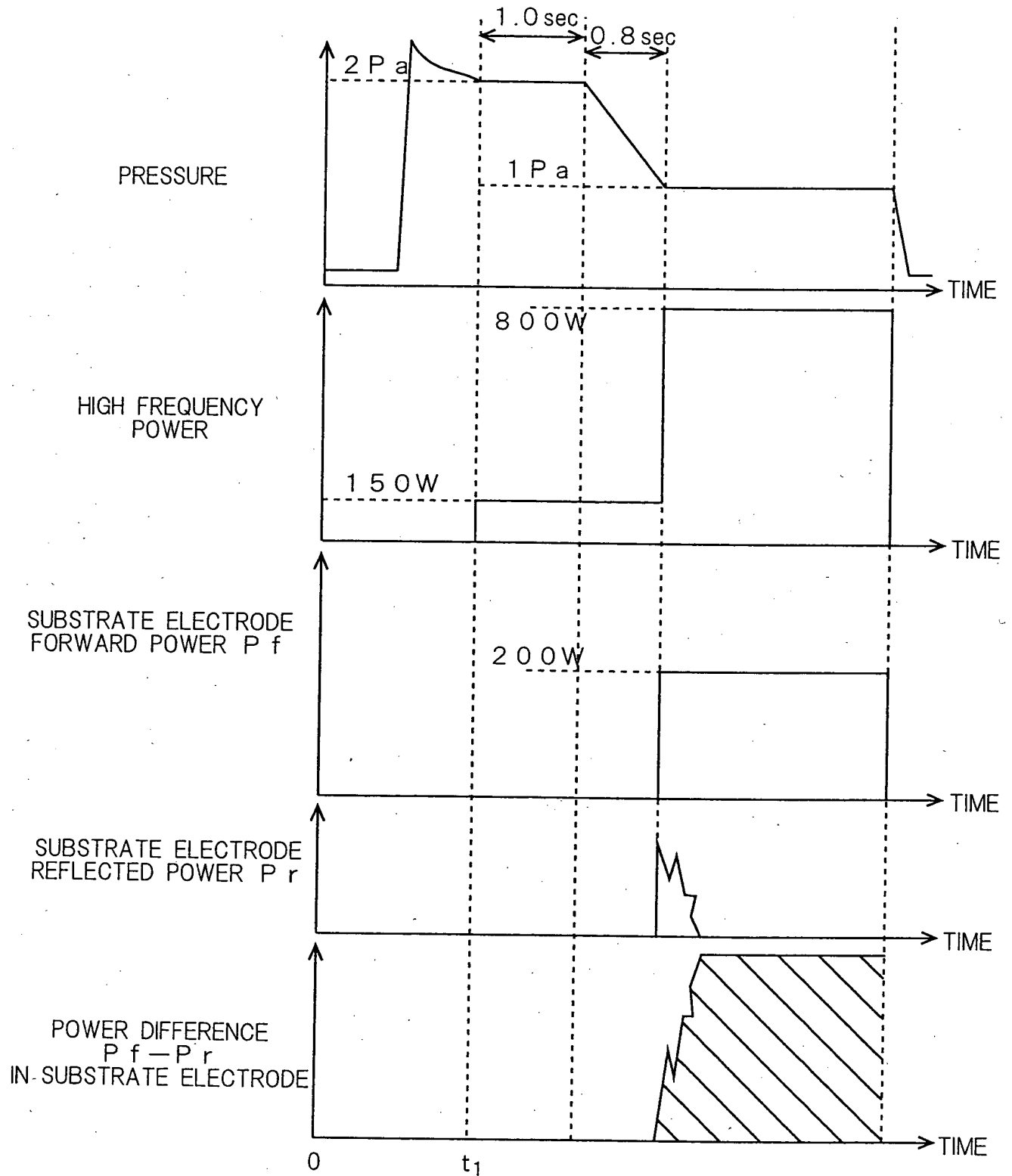
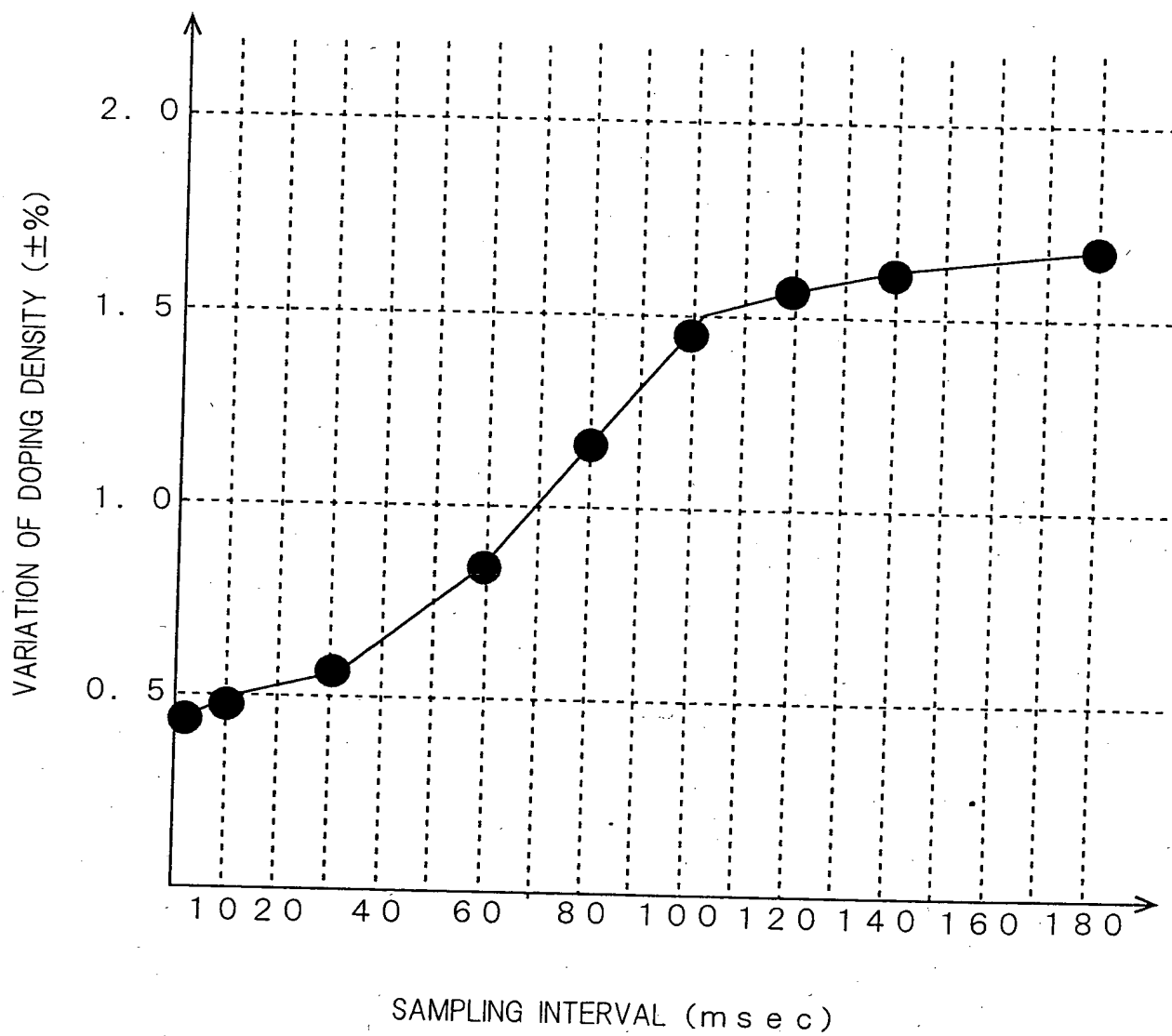


FIG. 12



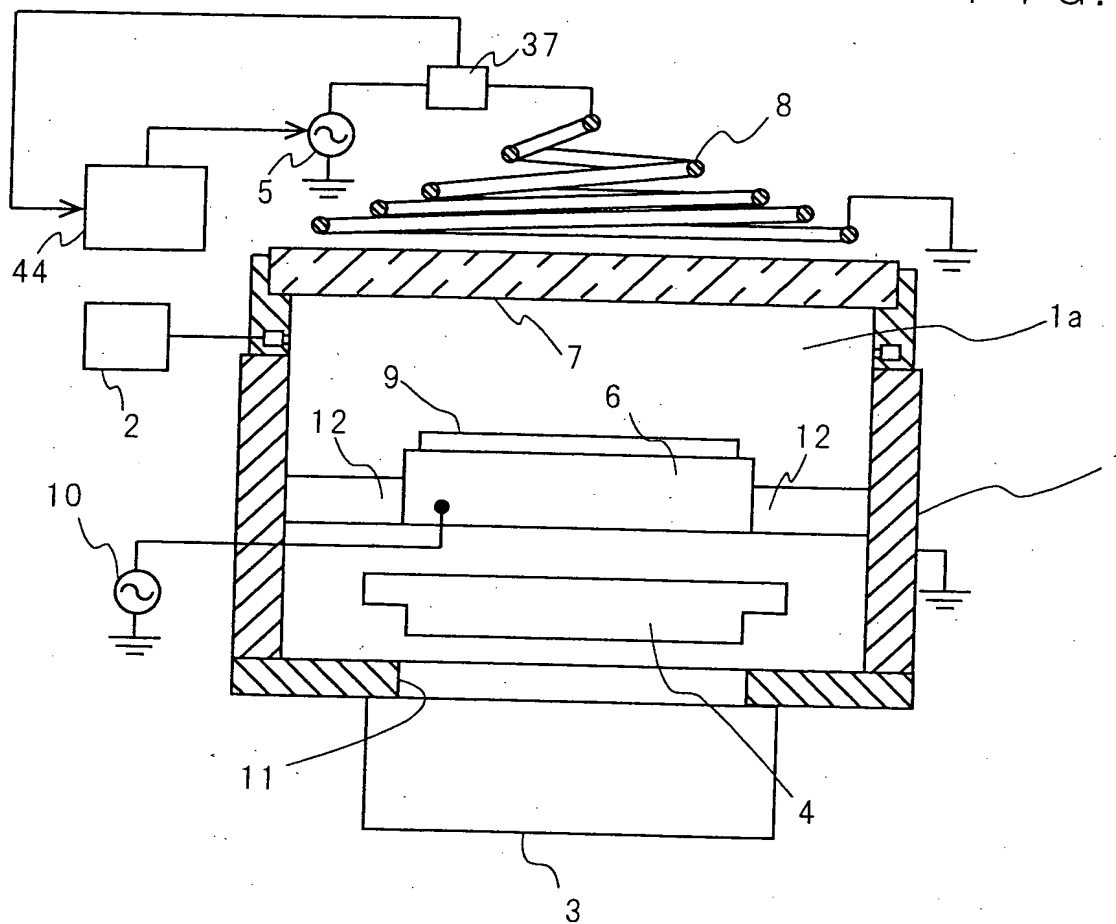


FIG. 14
(PRIOR ART)

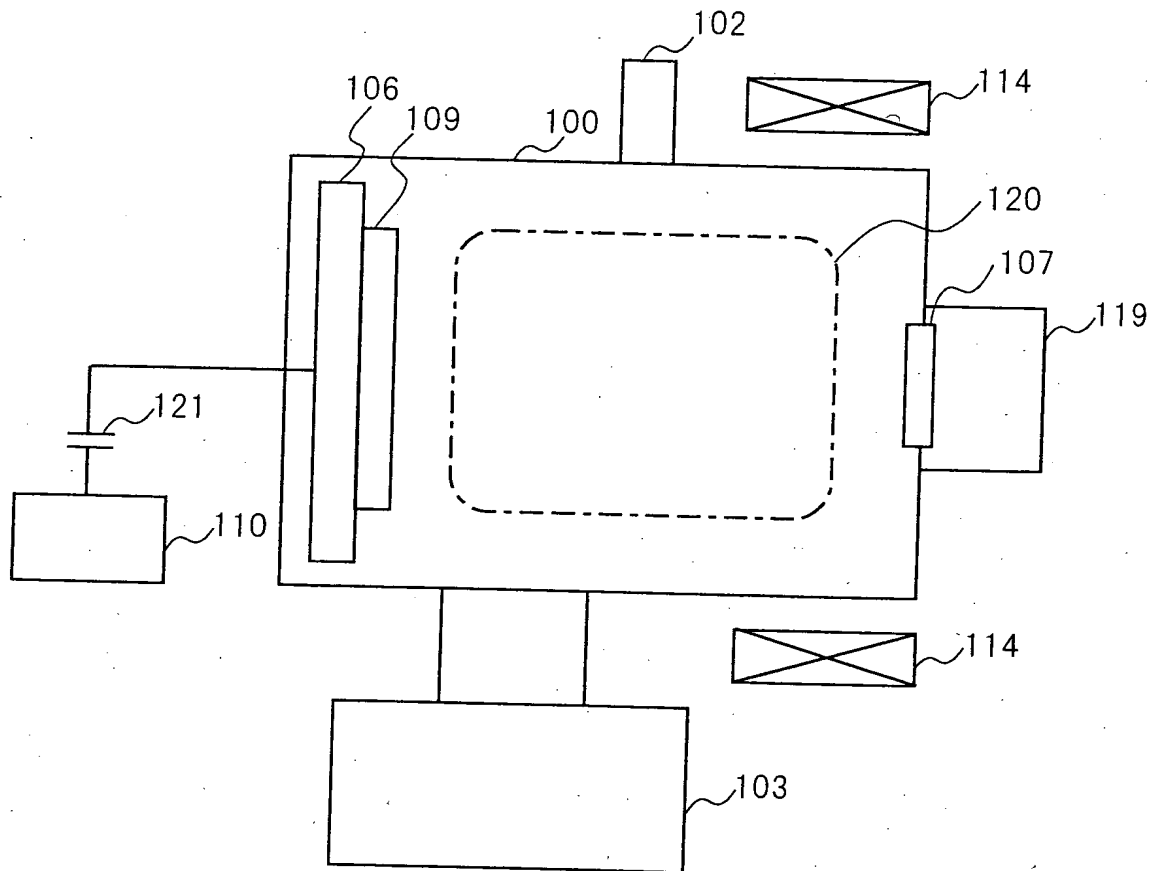


FIG. 15
(PRIOR ART)

